



2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

August 11, 1999

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Hospital Administrators

FROM: Jerry L. Paul, Director  
Health Licensing Section

SUBJECT: New South Carolina Code Effecting Licensing Standards

Regulation 61-16, Standards for Licensing Hospitals and Institutional General Infirmaries, Section 601.6, establishes certain standards on the subject of prescriber signatures on verbal orders. On December 21, 1994, the Department issued a provider-wide partial exception to the requirements outlined in Section 601.6 of R61-16.

Effective June 11, 1999, Section 44-30-90 of the S. C. Code Ann. 1976, as amended, was modified to read as follows: (Indicates New Matter) "The department and each licensing board shall promulgate regulations necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in this chapter and to comply with the public law no later than October 1, 1992. All orders for medication dispensed or treatment provided in a hospital shall be authenticated according to hospital policy. The orders shall be taken by personnel qualified by hospital medical staff rules and shall include the date, time and name of persons who gave the order, and the signature of the person taking the order. The Department of Health and Environmental Control shall promulgate regulations consistent with this provision." S. C. Code Ann. 1976, as amended, Section 44-30-90 supercedes the standards established in Section 601.6 of R61-16 and in the December 21, 1994, provider-wide partial exception.

Effective immediately, for the purposes of compliance with state licensing standards and in accordance with state law, hospitals which have established written policies regarding when verbal orders must be authenticated by prescribers will be required to comply with their policies on this subject. (Hospitals which implemented the December 21, 1999, provider-wide exception already meet the requirement for policies regarding when verbal orders must be authenticated but may wish to modify their policies at this time.) Hospitals which have not established policies regarding when verbal orders must be authenticated by prescribers shall comply with Section 601.6 of R61-16.

Should you have any licensing questions, please call Dennis Gibbs at (803) 737-7370. Should you have questions regarding compliance with The Medicare Conditions of Participation for Hospitals, please call Certification Branch staff at (803) 737-7205.

JLP:DLG:dg

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